

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. In the Office Action, claims 11-17 have been withdrawn. By this Amendment, claims 1-18 are amended. No new matter is added.

It is noted that a completed, initialed PTO-1449 filed September 11, 2002 has not been received. In particular, the reference of "Deutscher Drucker" has not been initialed by the Examiner. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner consider this reference and forward a completed and initialed PTO-1449 in the next communication. For the convenience of the Examiner, a copy of the PTO-1449 filed September 11, 2002, has been attached hereto.

I. Restriction Requirement

Applicants hereby confirm that Group I, claims 1-10 and 18 have been elected. However, this election is made with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all the claims of 1-18 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the Restriction Requirement and to examine all of the claims in this application.

II. Formal Matters

The Office Action objects to the Abstract under MPEP §608.01(b). The Amendment is responsive to the objection. Thus, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the title because it is not descriptive. Applicants respectfully traverse this objection because Group II, directed to the apparatus, has been argued in this Amendment that the subject matter of all claims 1-18 is sufficiently related and the examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the specification because of informalities. The Amendment is responsive to the objection. Thus, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

III. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-10 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Wolf, U.S. Patent 2,361,140 in view of Dixon et al. (hereinafter "Dixon"), U.S. Patent 2,699,936. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

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Wolf fails to disclose or suggest continuously feeding individual sequentially printed sheets that forms the individual section of the newspaper, as recited in claims 1 and 18.

Wolf merely discloses a newspaper assembly which includes a comic book interfolded produced from a continuous web. The principle object of Wolf is to print and fold on the same printer and folder at the same time and at full running speed with comic sections of different sizes. Accordingly, this is achieved by a special design of the comic book and a special folding arrangement. That is, a conventional rotary printing machine prints continuous webs A, B from which the combination product is obtained. Web A forms the normal sized newspaper section, wherein part of web B forms a smaller comic book. The printed matter of the comic book is arranged to read at lengthwise of the fold instead of

crosswise (col. 1, lines 47-54). Both webs are then slit in the direction of the transport, i.e., lengthwise at a location 14, and at location 19 for web B (Figs. 2 and 3), such that sections A1, A2, B1, B2, B3 are formed. These sections are passed over to turning bars 16, 21, 22 in order to bring section A1 into overlapping relation with A2 and B2 with B2 and B3. The composition sections are then fed into a folder 23, which folds the webs along the line 24 (lengthwise), whereby another crosswise fold 25 is applied. By this arrangement in Wolf, a complicated apparatus is needed to perform the steps of cutting, turning over, overlapping and forwarding the two continuous webs A, B. Thus, the number of pages of the newspaper and a comic book is limited by the number of webs. Moreover, for more pages, the apparatus becomes even more complicated because three or more webs have to be handled. Further, Wolf puts some restrictions on the way the web is printed. For example, the comic book consisting of the sections B2 and B3 has to be printed lengthwise, while the sections A1, A2, B1 belonging to the normal size part of the newspaper are printed in the conventional manner. Further, Wolf implies that, due to the multiple folding, one of the sides of the comic book section has to be cut along the fold to permit turning of the pages (col. 2, lines 1-10).

In stark contrast, the claimed invention discloses feeding individual sheet of paper, rather than a continuous multiple web. By employing the individual sheet of paper, it has significant advantages, for example, the claimed invention may have any desired size sheets and may be printed in any arbitrary way, while Wolf requires that the webs A, B have the same width, and the drawback that some sections are printed lengthwise while others crosswise.

Accordingly, Wolf fails to disclose or suggest continuously feeding individual sequentially printed sheets that forms the individual sections of the newspaper, as recited in claims 1 and 18.

Further, Wolf fails to disclose or suggest forming a stack of individual sheets and forwarding the stack. That is, the individual sheets are fed to a first collecting station where a sheet stack is formed, which the number of sheets in the stack is arbitrary and can vary from issue to issue. By contrast, Wolf fails to disclose forming a stack of individual sheets and forwarding the stack, because Wolf teaches a continuous web and no collecting station. Further, Wolf forms the composite of different web layers by cutting the web lengthwise and by turning the sections over. This, however, is not the step of forming a stack of individual sheets. Thus, Wolf fails to disclose or teach forming a stack of individual sheets and forwarding the stack.

Further, the Office Action admits on pages 4-5 that Wolf does not teach or suggest the step of conveying the finished stack away from the first collecting station, or the step of depositing it in a second collection station. However, the Office Action attempts to overcome the admitted deficiencies of Wolf by arguing that Dixon teaches these steps.

However, the method of Dixon is different from the method of the claimed invention. In particular, Dixon discloses machines for folding flexible sheets, such as handkerchiefs. Thus, Dixon deals with flexible sheets, not printed paper. Further, there are no stacks of sheets, but only folded packages each consisting of a multiple folded sheet (Fig. 8). Further, there is no hint regarding the package from a first collecting station to a second collecting station. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine the teachings of Dixon to the teachings of Wolf with any expectation of success. That is, nowhere in Dixon is there any motivation to modify the disclosure of Dixon in the manner asserted by the Office Action. In the absence of any motivation to do so, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have combined the references and then modified the resulting combination as asserted in the Office Action to obtain the claimed invention.


For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Wolf and Dixon, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or render obvious the features recited in independent claims 1 and 18. Claims 2-17, which depend from independent claim 1 are likewise distinguished over the applied art for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features they recite. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 are respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claim 1-18 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:DJC/djb

Attachment:
Amended Abstract
PTO-1449

Date: June 18, 2003

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<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A4
A method of producing a newspaper (7, 8, 9) ~~comprises having~~ at least one section (3, 4, 5) which is formed from at least one centrally folded printed sheet (1), ~~and an apparatus implements the method.~~ The following steps are carried out according to the invention:

a) individual sequentially printed sheets (1), which are intended for forming the individual sections (3, 4, 5) of the newspaper (7, 8, 9), are fed continuously to a first collecting station, and sheets (1) which are assigned to one common section (3, 4, 5) are positioned one above the other (collected) to form a sheet stack (2); b) a finished sheet stack (2) is conveyed away from the first collecting station (10), a first sheet (1) of a further section (3, 4, 5) being fed to the first collecting station (10) while the preceding sheet stack (2) is being conveyed away from the first collecting station (10) or once it has been conveyed away therefrom; c) the finished sheet stack (2) is folded in order to produce a section (3, 4, 5); d) the section (3, 4, 5) is deposited in a second collecting station (12) such that it comes to rest on, if appropriate, an already deposited section (3, 4, 5); e) the steps a) to d) are repeated, if appropriate, until all the sections (3, 4, 5) of the newspaper (7, 8, 9) have been completed and positioned one upon the other to form a section stack (15).